

## **CLAIMS**

Kindly cancel pending claims 1 through 24 and add new claims 25-46, as presented below. The listing of claims set forth below replaces all prior listings of claims.

Claims 1-24 (Cancelled).

Claim 25. (New) A polymerization initiator package, comprising

a bag having a sealable opening, said bag being comprised of a water soluble polymeric material, and

a determined amount of a dry powder water soluble azo-initiator contained inside the bag, and

a sealing member comprised of the same water soluble polymeric material as the polymeric bag, said sealing member adapted to close the opening of the bag containing the dry powder water soluble azo-initiator, and said sealing member not causing physico-chemical changes to the water soluble polymeric material comprising the bag.

Claim 26. (New) A polymerization initiator package according to claim 25, said sealing member comprising a tie-wrap.

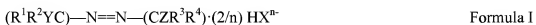
Claim 27. (New) A polymerization initiator package according to claim 25, said sealing member comprising a tape.

Claim 28. (New) A polymerization initiator package according to claim 25, wherein the water-soluble polymeric material is a water-soluble cellulosic polymer.

Claim 29. (New) A polymerization initiator package according to claim 25, wherein the water-soluble polymeric material is a water-soluble polymeric cellulose derivative.

Claim 30. (New) A polymerization initiator package according to claim 25, wherein the water-soluble polymeric material is a water-soluble polyvinylalcohol.

Claim 31. (New) A polymerization initiator package according to claim 25, wherein the dry powder water soluble azo-initiator is selected from the group consisting of compounds represented by the formula



wherein

$R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  each represent a hydrocarbon compound from the group consisting of an alkyl group or cycloalkyl group,

Y represents a compound from the group consisting of



Z represents a compound from the group consisting of





Formula III

$R^5$  is a constituent from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, an alkyl, an allyl and a phenyl,

$R^6$  is a constituent from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, an alkyl or a phenyl,

$R^7$  is an optionally substituted alkylene group,

$R^8$  is a constituent from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom and a hydroxyalkyl group,

X is an anion from the group consisting of a monovalent chloride, bromide and acetate, wherein n represents its valence.

Claim 32. (New) A polymerization initiator package according to claim 31, wherein the dry powder water soluble azo-initiator is 2,2'-Azobis(2-amidinopropane), 2,2'-azobis[2-(2-imidazolin-2-yl)propane].

Claim 33. (New) A polymerization initiator package according to claim 31, wherein the dry powder water soluble azo-initiator is a salt of 2,2'-Azobis(2-amidinopropane), 2,2'-azobis[2-(2-imidazolin-2-yl)propane].

Claim 34. (New) A polymerization initiator package according to claim 26, wherein the determined amount of dry powder water soluble azo-initiator is 1 g to 25 kg.

Claim 35. (New) A polymerization initiator package according to claim 26, wherein the determined amount of dry powder water soluble azo-initiator is 100 g to 10 kg.

Claim 36. (New) A polymerization initiator package according to claim 26, wherein the determined amount of dry powder water soluble azo-initiator is 500 g to 5 kg.

Claim 37. (New) A polymerization initiator package according to claim 26, wherein the determined amount of dry powder is an amount effective to initiate polymerization of a determined monomer in an aqueous medium.

Claim 38. (New) A polymerization initiator package according to claim 26, further comprising a water soluble anti-foaming agent contained inside the bag.

Claim 39. (New) A polymerization initiator package according to claim 26, further comprising a water soluble diluent contained inside the bag.

Claim 40. (New) A polymerization initiator package according to claim 26, further comprising a water soluble anti-foaming agent and a water soluble diluent contained inside the bag.

Claim 41. (New) A polymerization initiator package according to claim 26, further comprising an outer container and a label applied to the outer container, said label specifying the determined amount of dry powder.

Claim 42. (New) A polymerization initiator package according to claim 26, further comprising an outer container and a label applied to the outer container, said label specifying the determined amount of dry powder and providing a certificate of analysis.

Claim 43. (New) A polymerization initiator package according to claim 26, wherein the dry powder constitutes about at least 75 wt. % of the polymerization initiator package.

Claim 44. (New) A polymerization initiator package according to claim 26, wherein the dry powder constitutes about 90 to 99.9 wt. % of the polymerization initiator package.

Claim 45. (New) A polymerization initiator package according to claim 26, wherein the dry powder constitutes about 95 to 99 wt. % of the polymerization initiator package.